

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/600,383

Applicant(s)

DRUCKER ET AL.

Examiner

DIANE D. MIZRAHI

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-11-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12,14 and 16-28 (renumbered 1-25).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12-11-06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DIANE D. MIZRAHI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Gero G. McClellan on December 11, 2006. This corrects the amendment of November 14, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

(Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for referencing a plurality of data points, from a collection of data, comprising:

creating an annotation associated with the plurality of data points;

creating an edge definition for the plurality of data points comprising information which defines at least two edges that bind the plurality of data points wherein the edge definition comprises a fewer number of data points than the plurality of data points;

storing the annotation; and

storing the edge definition in association with the annotation in a manner allowing retrieval of the annotation on the basis of the edge definition for a specified set of plurality of data points;

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;

retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data upon determining that the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on the edge definition for the first selection of data; and
returning the retrieved annotation.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a first selection of data comprising a plurality of data points and spanning at least two columns and at least two rows of an at least two-dimensional collection of data;

creating an edge definition for the first selection of data which defines a horizontal edge spanning the at least two columns and a vertical edge spanning the at least two rows wherein the edge definition comprises a fewer number of data points than the first selection of data; and

storing the edge definition in association with an annotation created for the first selection of data, wherein the edge definition is stored in association with the annotation in a manner allowing retrieval of the annotation on the basis of the edge definition for the first selection of data; wherein the storing comprises:

creating an index for the first selection of data; and

storing the index with the edge definition in the edge definition table;

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;

retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data upon determining that the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on

the edge definition for the first selection of data; wherein retrieving the annotation is done using the index created for the first selection of data; and
returning the retrieved annotation.

13. (Canceled) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the storing comprises:

creating an index for the first selection of data; and
storing the index with the edge definition in the edge definition table.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim ~~[[13]]~~11, wherein the operations further comprise creating an annotation record comprising the annotation created for the first selection of data and the index.

15. (Canceled) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;
determining if the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on the edge definition for the first selection of data; and
if so, retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data, using the index created for the first selection of data and returning the annotation created for the first selection of data.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the operations further comprise:

retrieving annotations associated with other selections of data upon determining if that the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the other selections of data, based on corresponding edge definitions for the other selections of data; wherein retrieving the annotations is done using indexes created for the other selections of data; and

~~if so, retrieving annotations associated with the other selections of data, using indexes created for the other selections of data, and returning the annotations for the other selections of data.~~

17. (Previously Presented) An annotation system, comprising:

an annotation database;

an edge definition table; and

an executable component configured to:

create an edge definition for a selection of data comprising a plurality of data points, the edge definition comprising data points which define one or more bounding edges of the selection of data wherein the edge definition comprises a fewer number of data points than the selection of data,

create an index for the selection of data,

store the edge definition and index for the selection of data in the edge definition table,

and store, in the annotation database, an annotation record comprising an annotation for the

selection of data and the index, whereby annotation records contained in the annotation database

are retrievable, for a specified set of data points of the selection of data, on the basis of the edge definition.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-12,14,16-28 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Comments

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

Other Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office

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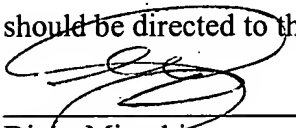
actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

December 11, 2006